

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 EB-07 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5865

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SOPN, NI, US

SUBJECT: POST ARTICLE ALLEGING PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES TO BE CIA
COVERT ASSET

1. EXTRACT OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, "CIA'S CORPORATE SHELL GAME," ALLEGING CIA CONTROL AND COVERT UTILIZATION OF PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES JUST RECEIVED VIA USINFO. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PAN AFRICAN IS WACASC CONTRACT CARRIER VITAL TO ITS SUPPLY SUPPORT OPERATIONS MANY WEST AFRICAN POSTS. ALLEGATION THAT CIA IS MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN THAT CONTRACT COULD PRODUCE STRONG NEGATIVE FMG REACTION AND SERIOUSLY INHIBIT IF NOT JEOPARDIZE ALTOGETHER WACASC OPERATIONS.

2. IN HOPE OF DIMINISHING IMPACT OF STORY, MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO LOOK INTO FEASIBILITY OF FLOATING QUESTION OF ALLEGATION AGAINST PAN AFRICAN AT NOON BRIEFING JULY 14 WITH A VIEW TO HAVING IT ANSWERED BY CATEGORIC DENIAL. HOPEFULLY THAT ACTION WOULD ALSO HELP DEFUSE ANTICIPATED FUTURE LOCAL PRESS PLAY ON SUBJECT. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT ARTICLE APPEARS AT TIME WHEN LOCKHEED ARMS SMUGGLING CASE CONTINUES RECEIVE PROMINENT MEDIA ATTENTION, EXACERBATING PREVALENT HIGH SENSITIVITIES TO POSSIBILITY OF SUBVERSIVE U.S. INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS TARGETED AGAINST NIGERIA.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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